No 448 April 12, 1998



# THE FUNDAY TIMES

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**Class act!**
Win a screening of Mr Magoo for your class by filling in our summit questionnaire

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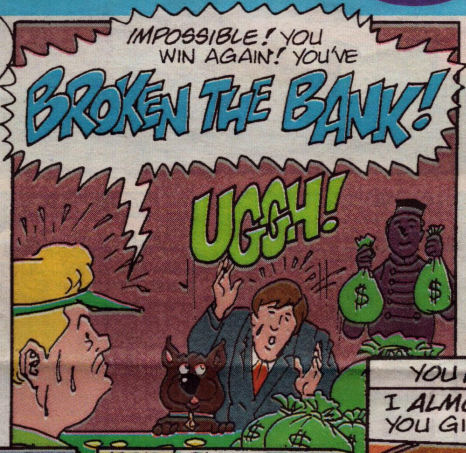
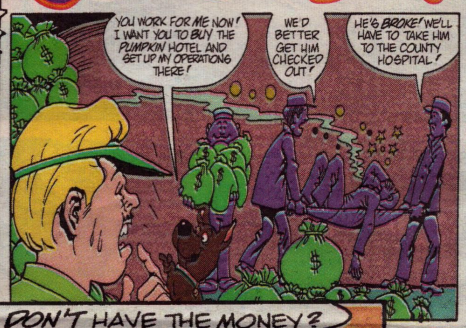
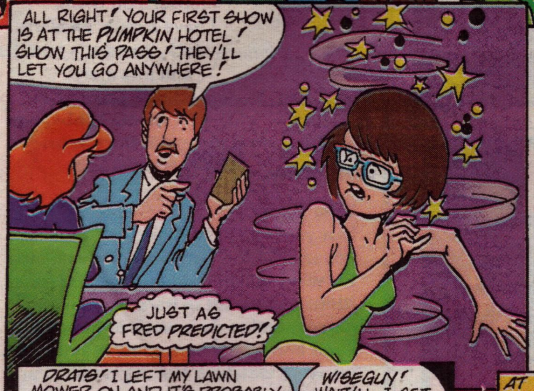
**On the wing**
Air France takes World Cup fever sky high with its new-look planes!

**CENTRE PAGES**
**Cracking stuff!**
Discover how people all round the world enjoy celebrating the Easter holidays

## STRANGE VANISHING IN VEGAS with SCOOBY-DOO!



More inside

SCOOBY-DOO AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF HANNA BARBERA ©1998

CATCH SCOOBY-DOO EVERY DAY ON CARTOON NETWORK

# Competition

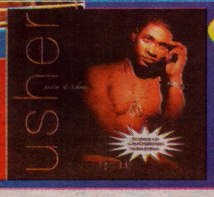
## Brimful of Usher!

He started singing in his church choir, but Usher Raymond has become an international music megastar over the last few months, and he's still just 18 years old! Usher's album, My Way, has gone platinum all around the world and now he's back with his fantastic new single, Nice & Slow.

To celebrate its release, we've got two exclusive embroidered Usher jackets up for grabs!

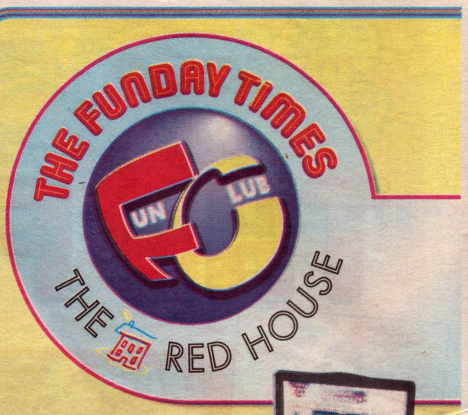
WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN!

You can also get your hands on Usher's fantastic new single free! We've got a bumper box of 20 promotional copies on CD to give away to lucky runners-up.




**WIN!** To win, just tell us the name of Usher's first hit single, that shot straight to number one in the UK.

Answers to the FC address, on page 3, by April 22

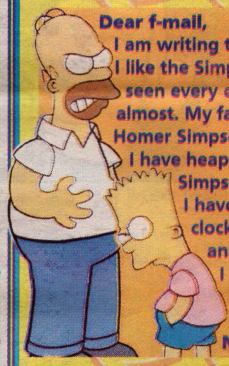



## f-mail

The star letter will receive the Tiger Deluxe Ultra Pack PC, essential for aspiring scholars, and the runners-up will receive the zappy Brain Shift, a fast-moving memory game!

TIGER

**Dear f-mail,**
A little while ago, my mum was rushing with the dinner as she was going out. My brother and I were eating. My mum popped her food on a plate and sat down to eat it. Suddenly she jumped up, stuck her dinner in the microwave and sat down again. Then all three of us burst out laughing. My mum had been trying to eat freezing cold food!
**Emma McNamee, age 9, Dublin**



**Dear f-mail,**
I am writing to tell you how much I like the Simpsons. I think I have seen every episode ... well almost. My favourite character is Homer Simpson, followed by Bart. I have heaps of things with the Simpsons on them. I have a mug, an alarm clock, posters, a bum bag and lots more. I love them.
**Nicola Gibbs, age 12, Barton under Needwood**

PICTURE: PA

**Dear f-mail,**
Last year I went to Greece on a sailing holiday. On the last week of my holiday we went sailing round the islands near Nidri. It was a lot of hard work and my parents had to do a week of training.
I was annoyed when, a few months ago, we were watching Holiday on BBC1 and Zoe Ball went on the same trip to Greece. Zoe didn't do half the things my mum and dad did and she had a much more relaxing time than them. I think that stars should be treated the same way as normal people, especially when they're filming something to advertise a holiday. This particular programme was aimed at totally the wrong type of person.
**Kerry Upham, age 11, Essex**

 Scooby and the gang piece the puzzle together next week! Don't miss it

# The FUN Club

Send all your mail to us at:
The Fun Club
PO Box 15
Wetherby
LS23 7TL

## IT'S YOUR WORLD – what do you think?

**Next month, children from all over the world will take part in the 1998 Children's Summit at Disneyland Paris. From May 4-8 the young delegates will express their views on growing up in today's world and discuss ideas for the future.**

The 20 UK representatives come from Rofft School in Wrexham, but children from all over the country can have their say. Answer the questions below and tell us what you think about today's world. All Funday readers' responses will be recorded and included in the 1998 Children's Charter that will be presented to UNESCO at the summit.

Completed questionnaires will also be entered into a prize draw, to win a preview screening of the new Disney blockbuster movie, Mr Magoo. The winner and their class will see the film before its release and enjoy their own Disney party (food and travel included). Plus 25 runners-up will get a Disney goody bag.

WIN

So, get going and make a difference! Cut out the Children's Summit questionnaire below and send it to The Fun Club, address above, by April 22.

## Questionnaire

Name: _____ Age: _____ Address: _____

_____

_____

**1** To grow up healthy, happy and intelligent, tell us what you need most in your life. (tick three)

- Love
- Good, balanced diet
- Lots of TV & radio
- Good schools
- Safe, caring community
- Clean, healthy environment
- Physical exercise and sport
- A world at peace
- Good family life

**2** When you grow up, what sort of environment would you like to work in? (tick two)

- With people
- With nature/land/water
- With electronics/machines/computers
- By myself
- At home with my family
- In a city
- In a small town or the countryside

**3** How do you spend most of your leisure time? (tick three)

- Watching TV or listening to music
- Playing with friends
- Doing homework
- Doing chores
- Reading
- Playing sports
- On the computer
- Taking care of younger brothers and sisters
- Talking on the telephone

**4** When you are an adult, do you think the world will be better than it is today? (tick one)

- Yes, definitely
- Maybe
- I don't know
- Definitely not

**5** What do you think are the greatest problems to be solved in the world? (tick three)

- Poverty (homelessness and hunger)
- Hatred and war
- Pollution of the environment
- Lack of education
- Disease
- Violence

**6** Where do you get the news from most? (tick two)

- My family
- My friends
- TV & radio
- Newspapers and magazines
- My teachers

**7** When you learn about news, what are you most interested in? (tick three)

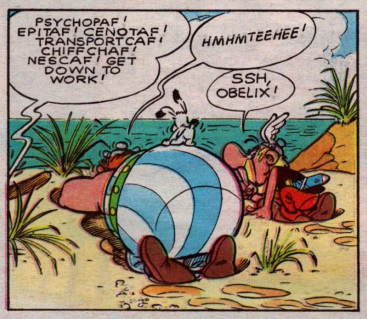
- Sport
- Politics
- Entertainment (movies, music, museums, theatre, the arts, famous people)
- My town
- Science, health and the environment
- World events

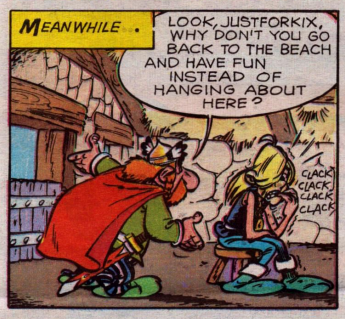
**8** Do you think there is too much violence on TV?

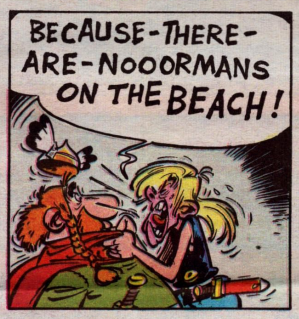
- Yes
- No
- I don't know

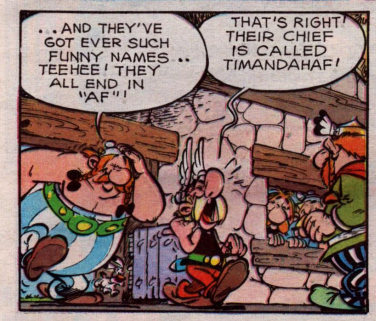
# Asterix and the Normans

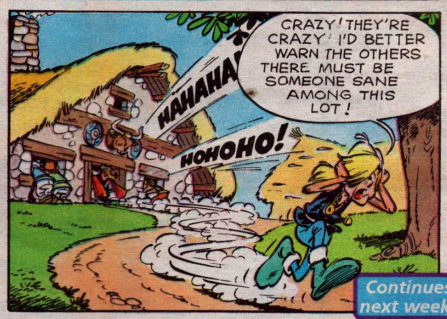
©DARGAUD ÉDITEUR PARIS 1967/HODDER & STOUGHTON 1978 BY GOSCINNY AND UDERZO





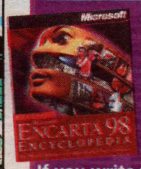





Continues next week!


LineOne FUNDAY on-line

funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk




Don't delay! Send your e-mail today

If you write to us through the Internet you have the chance to win these great CD-Roms.
The star e-mail wins the Encarta 98 Encyclopedia and Greetings Workshop Deluxe. The runners-up can choose either Encarta or Greetings Workshop.

I care about endangered wildlife and I want poachers to stop hunting. Animals are beautiful and poachers only kill them for money. Then they sell the tusks, fur, teeth and horns for people to buy for cosmetic and medical purposes. If people stop buying them, the poachers will give up hunting and the animals will be protected. These animals cannot protect themselves – but we can, so let's do something.
**Ali Jaffer, age 10**

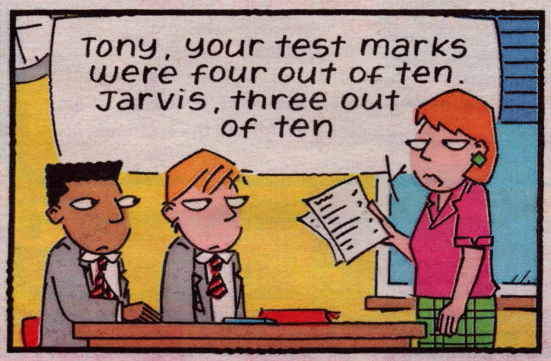
I recently went to the National Mining Museum on a school trip. We found that just over 150 years ago, children as young as six years old worked long hours down coal mines. They worked in almost complete darkness. So, I am glad I was not born then!
**Anna Swan, aged 10**

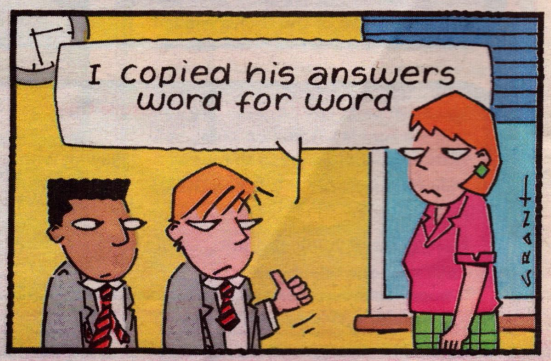
When the clocks moved forward, my family did not know and I was meant to be at Sunday school at 10am. I was an hour late! Then, my friends and I waited to be picked up by my dad and I realised he thought there was still an hour to go. We started walking and I had to ask a neighbour to cross the road with us. Eventually my dad came.
**Shani Chachamu, age 11**

more info call: 0345 777464

www.lineone.net


## Jarvis



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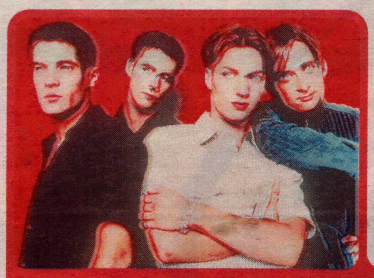
Will the Gauls start taking Justforkix seriously? Find out next week

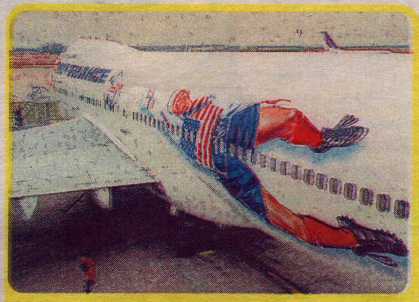
THE FUNDAY TIMES

# news



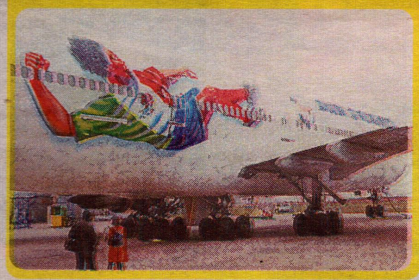
## Ultra bright!

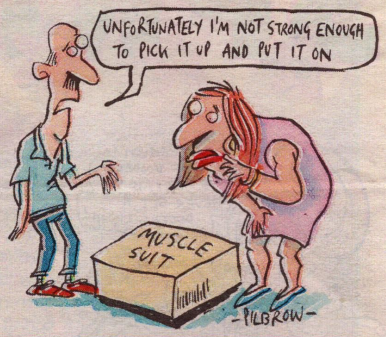
They describe themselves as a 90s version of an 80s group, like Wham or Duran Duran, and Ultra are all set to take today's audiences on their own pop voyage. "We're certainly not an 80s throwback," explains Jon O'Mahoney, Ultra's drummer. "But unlike some 90s bands, we play instruments and we write our own songs as well." Ultra's vocals are handled by 21-year-old James Hearn, who bassist Nick Keynes jokingly describes as "the new Gary Barlow" – because he's been songwriting since he was just 12 years old. Not that talent is a rare commodity in world of Ultra – between them, the lads can boast an American tennis academy training, two university degrees and a place in the British pentathlon team! Recently, the boys have been touring with Louise, Boyzone and 911 – but life on the road isn't as glamorous as you might think. "When we're up on stage it feels like we've made it, but when we come off we find ourself changing in the loo!" laughs Michael. "And on a recent schools tour, I walked on in dark glasses and fell straight off the front of the stage," mumbles a red-faced James. "Which was extremely painful and embarrassing too!"



## Having a ball

With World Cup football fever starting to break out, the host country's national airline, Air France, has decided to get in on the action by painting huge action pictures of players from all the 32 participating teams on its planes. Both Scotland and England are featured on the specially commissioned 16-strong fleet of aircraft. Scotland have the honour of kicking off the tournament on June 10, with their group match against reigning champions Brazil in the magnificent new multi-million franc Saint Denis stadium in Paris.






## Power dressing

Amazing artificial muscles, that can give people extra strength immediately, have been invented by a professor at the University of New Mexico. Mohsen Shahinpoor, from the engineering and surgery department, has just delivered his first muscle suit to the United States Army for testing. The revolutionary new power packs, made from sophisticated polymer gels, are also being assessed by Nasa to see if they could help astronauts move more efficiently in their bulky spacesuits. Virtual reality game programmers are also excited about the potential of cyber-muscles, which could take VR action to a new level.

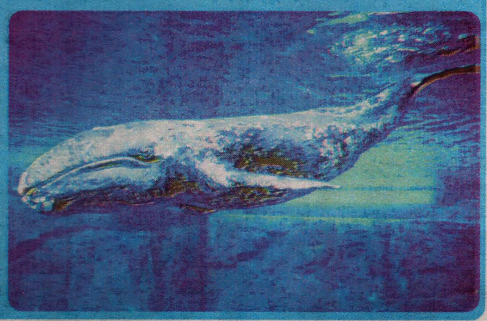
## Festival fun starts again

Block out your diary for the May bank holiday (May 23-25) because the fifth Hay Children's Festival of the Arts looks set to be another fun-filled weekend – and we'll be there! With a feast of creative workshops, from animation to wood carving, claymation to paper marbling, kite making to mad masks and Dorling Kindersley's Art Attack sessions – there'll be heaps to do! Top authors, including Jez Alborough, Lynne Reid Banks and Jacqueline Wilson, will be there signing books and reading stories that'll leave you spellbound. Come and meet The Funday Times team and join our fab Fun Club with The Red House.

*To find out more about the Hay Festival workshops and to book tickets, call 01874 712253.*

## Back to the ocean blue

Staff at SeaWorld in America have successfully released an orphaned baby whale back into the wild. When she was discovered, close to death on a nearby beach, JJ was found to be severely underweight. But, after months of care and attention at the water park's world-renowned rescue and rehabilitation department, she has doubled in length and increased her weight by six times. Four tiny transistors have been fitted to JJ to enable scientists to monitor her progress during the crucial next few weeks as she adapts to ocean life once again. So, we'll keep you posted!



PICTURES: AP, KEN BOHN, SEAWORLD INC

# SPRING INTO EASTER

**Easter is one of the most confusing celebrations in the calendar – why is it on a different date every year? And how did eggs and bunnies get mixed up with a religious festival? The Funday Times finds out ...**

## Festival of spring

Although Easter is a Christian festival, its name comes from an Anglo-Saxon goddess! In ancient times, people believed that Eostre, Goddess of the Dawn, brought new life and growth after the barren days of winter. Eostre's spring festival was celebrated in April, and as the Christian holiday was at the same time of year, it took the same name!

## Easter eggs

Eggs are connected with Easter because they represent new life. In early Christian days decorated hen or duck eggs were given to children on Easter Sunday, to mark the end of Lent, a period when they had to eat sparingly and avoid treats!

## Why does Easter move?

Easter is on the first Sunday after the first full moon, after the first day of spring! Spring arrives at the Vernal Equinox – when day and night are of equal length. Because the movements in the stars change from year to year, it can come as early as March 22 or as late as April 25.

## Cracking fun

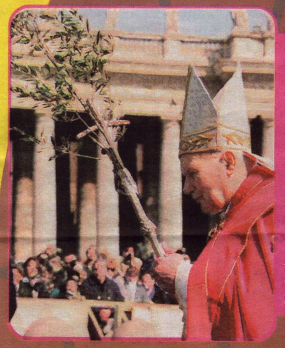
Traditional games of egg-rolling are popular. In parts of Britain, decorated eggs are rolled downhill on Easter Sunday. The last egg to crack is the winner! The tradition has spread to America, where children are invited to join in the egg-rolling on the White House lawn.

## Happy Easter Mr President!

In America, the Easter Bunny is nearly as big as Santa Claus! He is a large, magical white rabbit, with a basket of chocolate goodies. Children go to visit him in shopping malls, to have their picture taken with him. It is also an American tradition to leave decorated hard-boiled eggs out at night, for the Easter Bunny to hide. In the morning, children have to hunt for them before they are given their presents!

## Big on bunnies

Hares and rabbits are ancient symbols of new life, and have always been linked with the festival of spring. In Europe the tradition of a rabbit bringing eggs as a gift has existed for centuries.

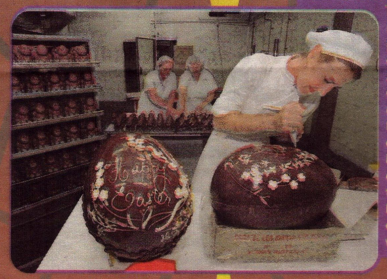


## Carry a palm!

Stories tell that palm leaves were strewn in the path of Jesus to celebrate his arrival in Jerusalem. Now, especially in Spanish-speaking countries, many people carry palm branches to church on the Sunday before Easter, in memory of this event. The streets full of waving palms are an amazing sight.

## Chocolate explosion

Chocolate Easter eggs were first made in Europe in the early 19th century. Early eggs were solid chocolate, because it was so hard to make hollow eggs that didn't break! The JS Fry company – now merged with Cadbury – produced Britain's first chocolate eggs in 1873. Cream-filled eggs arrived in 1923, and nowadays Cadbury's Creme Eggs are the most popular Easter treat of all. More than 300 million are made each year. Cadbury's claims that if you piled them all on top of each other, the heap would be ten times higher than Mount Everest! Altogether, the UK chocolate Easter egg market is worth more than £226 million!



## What's a bilby?

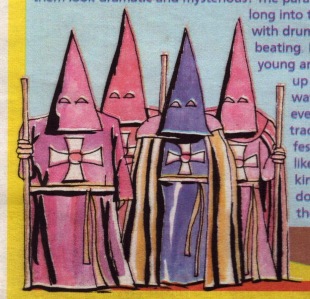
Because rabbits are not native to Australia, and are in fact considered something of a pest by the farmers there, our friends Down Under want to replace the Easter Bunny with something more local! The Bilby – a kind of bandicoot – is ideal because it is a cute little furry animal with big ears, plus it is as Australian as the kangaroo! But will it ever replace the good old Easter Bunny?

## The bells

In France they have an even wackier idea. Because the church bells are silent from Good Friday to Easter Sunday children there are told that the bells have gone to fetch their eggs!

## The holy week

In Spain, a whole week of spectacular parades takes place in the lead-up to Easter. In Granada, the processions are extraordinary. Images of Jesus and his mother Mary, surrounded by candles and flowers, are carried solemnly through the streets. Over a hundred scenes from the first Holy Week are represented in these vivid wooden carvings. The marchers wear pointed hoods that cover their faces, and which make them look dramatic and mysterious! The parades go on long into the night, with drums slowly beating. Everyone, young and old, stays up late to watch these events, and eat traditional festival food like churros – a kind of doughnut – in the street.



In Spain, they don't just stop at making eggs. Whole scenes made of chocolate are displayed in sweet shop windows. Castles, animals and historical figures are created to astonish passers-by, as the shops try to outdo each other.

## Hot-cross buns

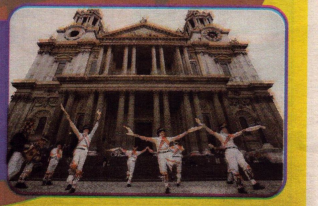
Bread marked with a cross has been a part of festivals since Greek and Roman times. This idea was naturally taken up by Christians, since the cross is the symbol of their religion. Traditionally hot cross buns are eaten on Good Friday, but nowadays people eat them over the whole holiday period.

## In your Easter bonnet...

Showing off your fine new clothes at a parade on Easter Sunday, is part of a centuries-old belief that it is lucky to wear something brand new on that day, especially a new Easter bonnet for girls. Incidentally, the film Easter Parade – with the song of the same name – is the only popular song that celebrates this time of year! Christmas gets all the best songs!

## Dancing in the street

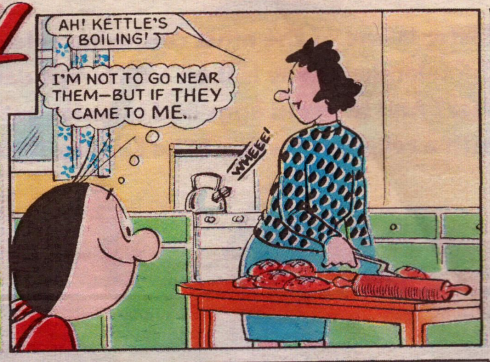
Easter Monday is a day for fetes, festivals and fun. In Thaxted, Essex, folk dancers perform in the streets and everyone dances with them! Morris dancers thump their sticks, shake bells and stamp on the ground to wake up the spirits of spring that have been sleeping in the ground all winter – just like people did in the days when everyone still believed in Eostre, Goddess of the Dawn!

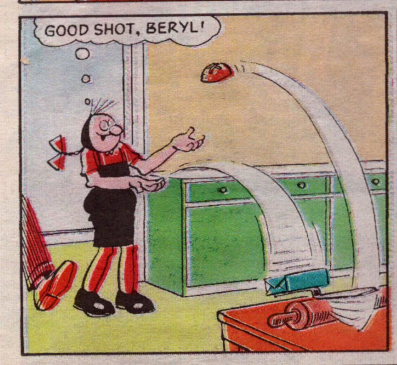


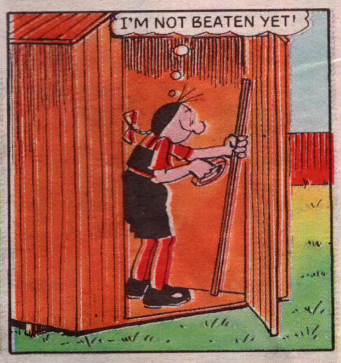
PICTURES: AFP, ARDEA, DORLING KINDERSLEY, EPA, PA, REUTERS. WORDS AND ILLUSTRATIONS: GLENN DAKIN

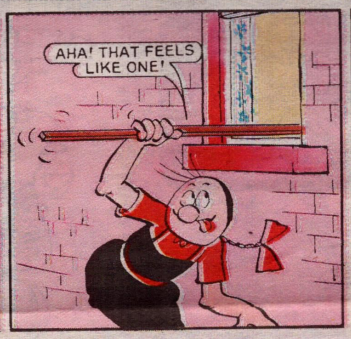
# BERYL the PERIL

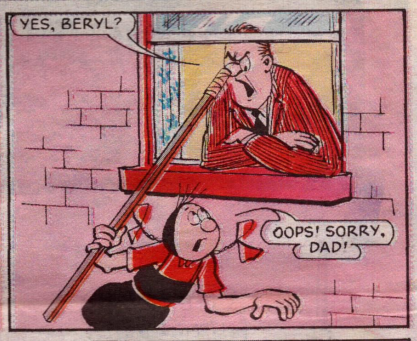
BERYL THE PERIL APPEARS EVERY WEEK IN The DANDY

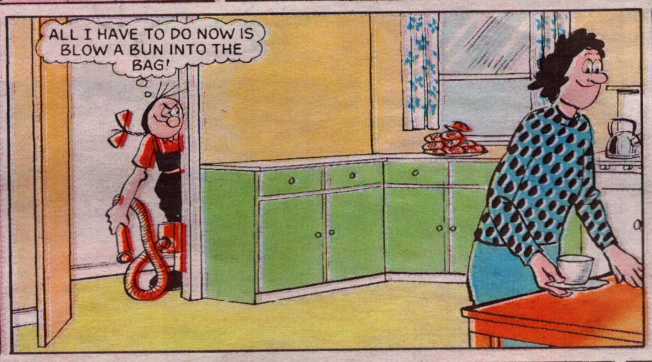


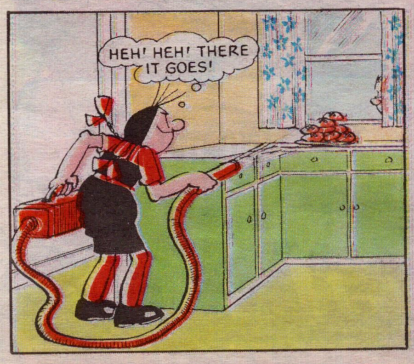










Beryl gets into another sticky situation next week in The Funday Times

# CREATE A CARTOON

Here's your chance to write your own cartoon strip!

LOONEY TUNES, CHARACTERS, NAMES AND ALL RELATED INDICIA ARE TRADEMARKS OF WARNER BROS. ©1998

# LIFT OFF

## SINGLE

**TRUE TO US** Vanilla ✪✪✪✪●

Vanilla's second single is not quite as rough-and-ready as their first – but it's instantly catchy nonetheless! True To Us is like a portion of juicy 80s pop, with lashings of light frothy topping. Sharon, Alida, Alison and Frances were just four North London schoolgirls who dreamed of becoming rich and famous pop stars – by being themselves. And now they're doing just that. Good luck to them!

## GAME

**SHEARER SHOOT OUT** ✪✪✪✪●

This great game needs no batteries – instead, magnetic motion creates some tricky match-play challenges. The moves might not be authentic, but it's fantastic fun and the game can be played by one or two players. A mini-Shearer figure scurries around the pitch and, if you're lucky, scores a goal – but it takes quite a bit of skill. Unfortunately, Shearer Shoot Out is a bit overpriced at £20.

## SINGLE

**TURN BACK TIME** Aqua ✪✪✪✪✪

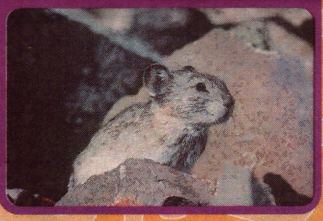
What's happened to Aqua? You'll hardly recognise them! They've dumped the Barbie beats and gone for something slow and more grown up this time around and it is pretty good too. In the video, the Danish popsters get utterly lost on London's Underground system. Fortunately, they eventually catch the correct tube, and Lene has a bizarre-looking out-of-body experience. Serious sound, but quirky at heart!

# DAGSY DOG

**Woof, woof!**
**It's Easter so I thought I'd get you bounding with information on bunnies. Hop on!**

Did you know that when rabbits are born they have no hair and are blind. Hares, on the other hand, have all their fur and their eyes are wide open!

Pikas are a type of rabbit that live in the mountains of North America and Asia. The long-eared pika lives high in the Himalayas in Nepal. You can find these creatures at the dizzy height of 20,000ft.



Dear Dagsy,
Do you know why rabbits have long ears?
**Elizabeth Warnock, age 8, Enniskillen**
Rabbits and hares both have big, long ears which help them lose heat in the warm climates they live in. But their ears really serve them when dangerous predators are about. They can hear the tiniest sounds and can get a head-start in the escape stakes. Swift hares can reach speeds of 50mph!

There are lots of famous rabbits but the ones that spring to mind are: The Easter Bunny, Peter Rabbit, Bugs Bunny and the Mad March Hare from Alice in Wonderland.

If you have a question for me or you want to send in a cool fact, write to:
**Dagsy's Kennel, PO Box 15, Wetherby LS23 7TL**

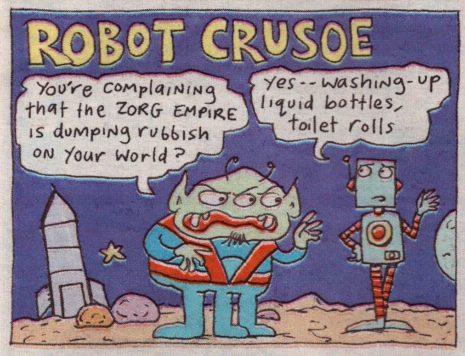
ILLUSTRATIONS: PAUL CEMMICK

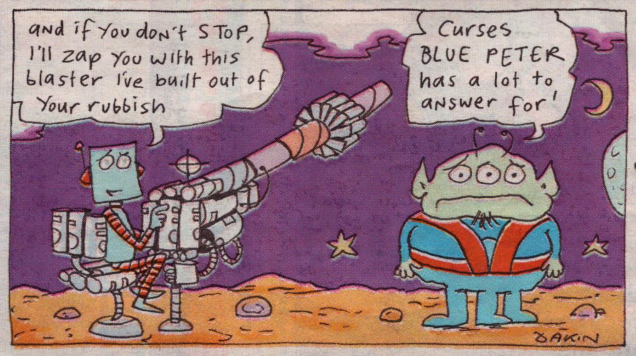
PICTURES: AP ARDEA

DK P·O·C·K·E·T·S To keep his paws on the pulse Dagsy Dog uses DK Pockets, a range of pocket-sized books published by Dorling Kindersley, which give an in-depth look at a wide variety of subjects.

**If you want Dagsy to sniff out a fact for you – send your question to the kennel today!**

REX AND TEX
Having turned Tex into a baby unicorn by accident, Marlon the incompetent wizard is now trying to return him to the way he was—
HERE GOES
SHAZAMBO
I DID IT! I ACTUALLY DID IT!
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
MIAOW!
GULP! TIME TO MAKE MYSELF DISAPPEAR I THINK.
STEVE BRIGHT

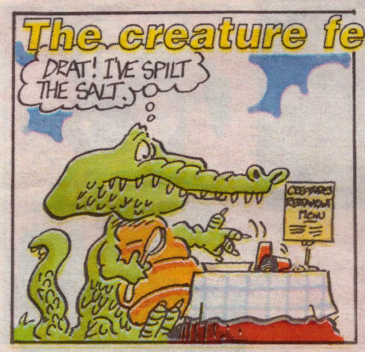

ROBOT CRUSOE
You're complaining that the ZORG EMPIRE is dumping rubbish ON your World?
yes--washing-up liquid bottles, toilet rolls


and if you don't STOP, I'll zap you with this blaster I've built out of your rubbish
Curses BLUE PETER has a lot to answer for!
BAKIN

WILLOUGHBY
I'M IN STRICT TRAINING FOR NEXT WEEK'S HIGH SPEED HOPPING RACE
ED McH

ARE YOU MAKING PROGRESS?
OH, YES

BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS


The creature feature
DRAT! I'VE SPILT THE SALT.

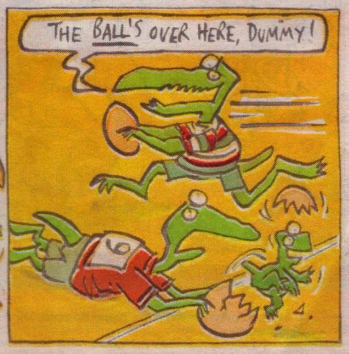
NOW I'LL HAVE TO THROW SOME OVER MY SHOULDER

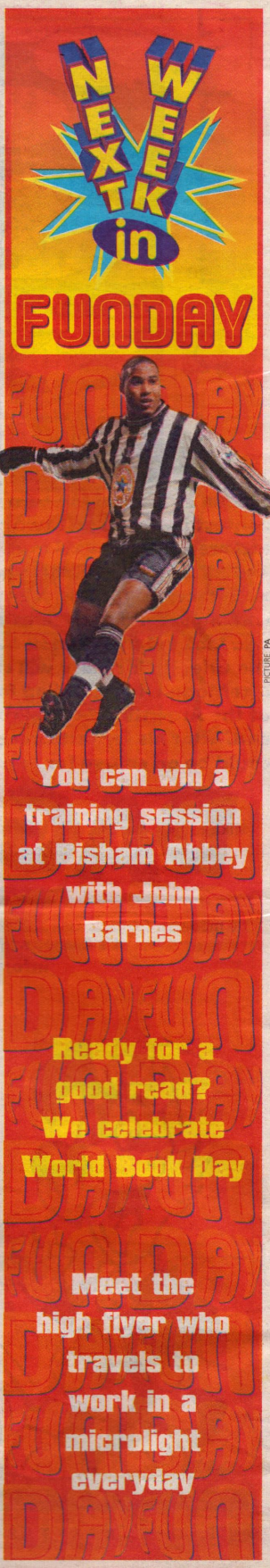
EEK! YOU'VE GONE AND KILLED MY SAMMY!

SQUIRT

15
WOW-I'M THROUGH! I'M ACTUALLY GOING TO SCORE!!!

EH?!?
CRACK
-PILBROW-


THE BALL'S OVER HERE, DUMMY!


NEXT WEEK in FUNDAY
You can win a training session at Bisham Abbey with John Barnes
Ready for a good read? We celebrate World Book Day
Meet the high flyer who travels to work in a microlight everyday
PICTURE PA

THE FUNDAY TIMES

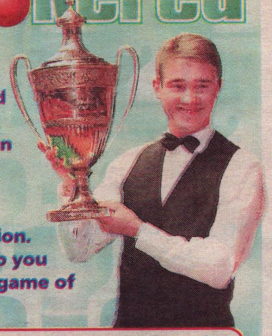
# sport

# Mika Häkkinen

**The Formula One motor racing season looks likely to turn into a contest between just two drivers: McLaren stars David Coulthard and Mika Häkkinen. Mika has won both races so far this year with David coming second each time, and the two look set for a classic battle for the title. Their rivalry will carry on this afternoon when the flag falls for the start of the Argentine Grand Prix in Buenos Aires, and, after his fantastic recent form, Mika could be on course for another victory.**

- Mika comes from Finland, but now lives in Monaco. However, he says he may go back to Finland when he stops racing
- He made his Formula One debut at the wheel of a Lotus, but moved to the McLaren team in his third season
- It took Mika nearly 100 races to become a winner, but he scored his first victory in the final grand prix of last season and now he can't stop winning
- When he is not racing, Mika enjoys skiing, swimming and playing tennis
- Being a healthy sportsman, Mika looks after himself, and says his favourite drink is water!

## Snookered



**Snooker's world championship starts in Sheffield this week and you can be certain the matches will throw up their normal mix of drama and emotion. But how much do you know about the game of the green baize?**

a. How many red balls are there on the table at the start of a frame of snooker?

b. What surname is shared by snooker legends Joe, Fred and Steve?

c. Which snooker star is a co-host of a Jim Davidson television show?

d. Who has a car with the number plate CUE BOY?

e. What is the name of the Sheffield theatre that hosts the world championship?

**ANSWERS**

a 15 b Davis c John Virgo d Ronnie O'Sullivan e The Crucible

## WIN Touchdown at Twickenham

Want to watch the Sanyo Cup live at Twickenham on May 23? The World XV play the 1998 Allied Dunbar Premiership champions and one reader can win a family ticket for four (accommodation for one night included) to see this big-time rugby match, plus take a trip round the Museum of Rugby. And what's more you get your own Nike English rugby strip signed by the English team!

**Five runners-up get a special signed Gilbert miniature rugby ball, a family ticket to the museum and lots of goodies, including a rugby video and hat.**

To win, tell us the name of the captain of the English rugby team.

Answers to The Fun Club address, on page 3, by April 22

PICTURES: EMPICS, PA

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## Get the bug

Meet Bugged – four microchip mischief makers – The Fly, Squeak, Miaow and Phone (they come to life by movement, sound or light). Their life-like impersonations will drive those nearest and dearest to you absolutely batty and they are very easy to hide.
The first 75 to join The Fun Club by phone and the first 75 to join by post will receive a set of four Bugged!

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Just call this number (with your parent's permission) Monday to Friday, 8.30am until 5.30pm, and we will send you our free magazine.
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